FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 OCTOBER 1984

Iran-Iraq War

Land Battles — Both sides reported further successes in the battle for control of the Meymak heights. Tehran radio claimed that Iranian forces repulsed repeated Iraqi counterattacks, but an Iraqi source cited by INA stated that in a successful attack on 20 October Iraqi troops recaptured all positions lost to the Iranians earlier. As for the losses on both sides, Tehran radio said over 3,600 Iraqis have been killed or wounded in the Meymak fighting while an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio announced that over 2,000 Iranians have been killed. An Iraqi spokesman cited by INA denied Tehran radio's claim that three Iraqi aircraft were downed by Iranian antiaircraft fire on 19 October. Although IRNA said over 50 civilians were killed or injured in Iraqi air raids on nearby towns, the Iraqi communiques spoke only of air raids on Iranian military positions. Meanwhile, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn visited the II Army's front line and issued directives to ensure a "decisive victory," INA announced.

Tanker Attack — Two people were killed aboard a Panamanian ship which was attacked by an unidentified aircraft east of Qatar on 19 October, Lloyds of London announced in a statement reported by AFP. The attack occurred in an area where Iranian aircraft have made previous attacks, Hong Kong radio noted. Tehran radio reported the attack without comment, but monitored Iraqi sources were not observed to mention it.

GCC Naval Command

The defense paper approved by the GCC foreign and defense ministers' meeting included "among the urgent defensive plans" the establishment of a joint GCC naval command based at Al-Jubayl, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait's *AL-SIYASAH* stated, citing a "well-informed Gulf source." The command will employ sophisticated warning systems and air and sea patrols of the Gulf waters. Any plane violating the airspace above its specially determined shipping lanes will be fired on, the source warned.

Iran-Turkey

The Turkish interior minister arrived in Iran to discuss "terrorists" entering Turkey from Iran and other "issues of mutual interest," as well as to deliver a message from President Kenan Evren to President 'Ali Khamene'i, Ankara radio disclosed. However, according to IRNA, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi declared that Turkey's proposal for joint border security is "not in the interest of relations between the two countries," and he went on to say that Iran's internal security affairs are its "own business" and that Turkey's security problems "have nothing to do with" Iran. Meanwhile, Tehran radio cited a Majlis deputy's warning to Turkey against entering Iraqi territory "under the pretext of security cover in the frontier regions but in fact to strengthen Saddam's regime."

Iraq-USSR

During a 1-day visit to Moscow, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz held official talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko on "relations of friendship between the two countries, the situation in the region, and the continued Iranian aggression against Iraq," INA revealed, adding that Gromyko also hosted a luncheon for 'Aziz attended by high-ranking government and military officials.

Syria-USSR

A careful reading of the Syrian-Soviet joint statement on President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Moscow would reveal "how identical are the two countries' viewpoints on the hot issues of the region and the world," Radio Monte Carlo asserted in a dispatch from Damascus. Noting that the communique calls for "intensifying the firm denunciation of the Camp David accords and the policy of separate deals and all current attempts to reactive and resurrect them," the radio pointed out that the meaning of "all current attempts" is very clear, even though used diplomatically.

Officials who went to Moscow with Al-Asad claim that "the consultation with the Soviet leadership was inevitable because Syrian-Soviet relations have risen to the level of strategic relations," the radio noted. Moreover, Damascus officials categorically deny that there were difficulties or disagreements between the sides during the visit, it added, citing agreements made on more military support, increased economic cooperation, and the PLO.

Lebanon

Security Situation — The authorities in Beirut intensified security measures following threats against French interests and after receiving information that three booby-trapped vehicles were roaming the capital, Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon reported. In Ba'alabakk, Shi'ite leader Husayn al-Musawi issued a statement denying that his Islamic Amal group was responsible for the 20 September attack on the U.S. Embassy, and warning the United States against taking retaliatory action against the organization, according to Jerusalem radio.

Political Developments — Speaking at a Lebanese Communist Party anniversary ceremony, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt stressed that his forces will not lay down their weapons but will increase their armament until they are assured that "partnership" is achieved in all spheres, particularly the Army. In his remarks, broadcast by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, the PSP leader criticized the government for failing to implement its reform program, and he warned that he will not participate in "a new Al-Wazzan-like government." Junblatt subsequently left for Moscow via Damascus, according to Beirut radio. The Lebanese Communist Party anniversary celebration was also attended by Syrian Ba'th Party Assistant

Secretary General 'Abdallah al-Ahmar and Soviet official Karen Brutents, Voice of the Mountain radio noted.

As for the Lebanese Government's position toward the UNIFIL commander's proposal for talks on security arrangements, Prime Minister Rashid Karami stressed that Lebanon does not object to holding talks under UN supervision to bring about Israel's withdrawal, but he categorically rejected any "direct" talks with the Israelis, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Israel

Lebanon Policy — The Alignment's willingness to reach an arrangement in Lebanon under UNIFIL's auspices is "unacceptable to us," Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon declared in a Jerusalem radio interview. Noting that Sharon raised his criticism of the prime minister's policy toward UNIFIL during the 21 October Cabinet meeting, IDF radio said the Cabinet will hold a comprehensive discussion of the Lebanese issue on 28 October when it will decide Israel's stance on withdrawal.

Jerusalem Move — The Police Affairs Ministry was moved to the government compound in East Jerusalem on 21 October, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

PLO

Representatives of six Palestinian factions will meet on 25 October to finalize a date for the PNC session, according to PLO sources in Tunis cited by the *JORDAN TIMES*. Although PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced that the PNC session will be held in Amman or Baghdad, a DFLP spokesman in Damascus stated that Algiers is the only possible venue for the meeting, the Jordanian newspaper added.

Jordan-UK Arms Talks

British Defense Secretary Michael Heseltine arrived in Jordan to discuss "possible" British arms sales, the *JORDAN TIMES* reported citing British Embassy officials. Heseltine is visiting at the invitation of the Armed Forces commander-in-chief as part of Jordan's "high-level contacts with East as well as West European countries," the paper explained, after observing that Britain has Javelin missiles, the alternative to the U.S. Stinger Missiles which Washington decided not to sell to Jordan.

Jordan-Egypt

In a speech at a banquet in honor of visiting Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan, Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali cautioned against letting inter-Arab differences be a justification for Arabs to side with foreigners, Cairo radio reported. In his speech, according to both Cairo and Amman radios, Prince Hasan affirmed that urgent action is needed to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Later, Prince Hasan met with President Husni Mubarak, who subsequently instructed Egyptian Government ministers to provide every opportunity for political, economic, and cultural cooperation with Jordan, MENA related.

Egyptian Military Production

Talks in Cairo between Egyptian Defense Minister Abu Ghazalah and his Italian counterpart Giovanni Spadolini dealt with Middle East and African issues as well as the two nations' co-production of naval supplies, missiles, electronics, and helicopters, Rome's ANSA revealed.

Earlier, the Egyptian minister of state for war production announced that new weapons manufactured in Egypt will be displayed at the international arms fair in Cairo 10-14 November, including tactical missile launchers, aircraft armed with guided rockets, and antiaircraft artillery, MENA reported.

Mitterrand Talks in Algeria

Both the French presidential spokesman and Algerian foreign minister termed the talks during French President Francois Mitterrand's 8-hour visit to Algeria a "success," AFP disclosed. The talks, which included a private conversation with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, were "useful," particularly in light of developments in the Maghreb, the Middle East and Africa, Algiers radio asserted, for they permitted a "better perception of the concerns of each country."

Libya-USSR

Serious talks are under way between the Soviet Union and Libya on cooperation in the construction of Libya's first electronuclear power station, Tripoli radio reported.

DRA

Afghan Embassy sources said French television reporter Jacques Abouchar can appeal his 18-year jail sentence for "illegally entering Afghanistan with an armed group," AFP reported.

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Karmal Greets Soviet Friendship Society
LD212111 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, has sent a message to the leadership of the Soviet Society for Friendship and Cultural Ties with Afghanistan on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the formation of that organization. The message states:

The leadership of the Soviet Society for Friendship and Cultural Ties with Afghanistan

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Soviet Union's Society for Friendship and Cultural Ties with Afghanistan, we express, with sincere hearts, good wishes and congratulations to the leadership and all members of the society.

During its 25 years of activity, the Soviet Society for Friendship and Cultural Ties with Afghanistan has consistently pursued the Leninist policy of the CPSU, the policy of peace and friendship among the peoples.

After the victory of the April Revolution and the establishment of people's power in Afghanistan, the traditional friendship between our countries and peoples has been transformed into true fraternity, all-round fruitful cooperation, and revolutionary solidarity. The internationalist selfless aid of the Soviet Union provides opportunities to the people of Afghanistan to engage in the construction of a new life, and to carry forward the struggle against the internal and external reaction which has been backed by the U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism, and reaction in the region. We attach great value to the activities of the Soviet Society for Friendship and Cultural Ties with Afghanistan, which highlights the great importance of Afghan-Soviet friendship, because this friendship is the guarantor of the independence of the DRA and promoter of peace and security in the region.

On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council and Government and the people of Afghanistan, we sincerely wish you further successes in your noble activities toward the protection and consolidation of peace, and the consolidation and growth of fraternal relations between the peoples of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. Let the unshakable friendship between the people of the DRA and the USSR become stronger, be eternal and grow for centuries.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council

Ziray Attends Party Session on Shortcomings
LD201045 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] A session of the Kabul Party Committee activists to discuss and take measures to implement the resolutions of the 14th PDPA Central Committee Plenum was held in Kabul State Medical Institute yesterday afternoon. The session was attended by Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. The session was also attended by members of the city party committee and its 11 wards, secretaries of primary party organizations, some deputy ministers, heads and directors of state institutions and departments, officials of the revolution defense groups, a number of the commanders of security posts and political heads of the city security wards.

Zohur Razmjo, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Kabul Party Committee, presented a report from the Executive Bureau of the Kabul Party Committee to the session on enhancing the role of Kabul Party Committees and organizations and their responsibilities to improve affairs in the city. The report briefly touches on important accomplished tasks and on some useful and valuable experience by some committees and organizations. The report also points out specifically that there are shortcomings and deficiencies in the work, and calls on the activities of Kabul party organizations to fight seriously against deficiencies, to eliminate shortcomings, and to make consistent efforts to realize their duties and commitments. Then eight of the participants each spoke on the report.

A BAKHTAR correspondent, quoting the journal *PAMIR*, reports that in the second part of the session the assistant to the secretary of the Kabul Party Committee read the resolution of the 14th PDPA Central Committee Plenum to strengthen the unity of the ranks of the PDPA and to further enhance party and state discipline. Three of the participants at the session expressed their views. On behalf of their organizations, they pledged to struggle in an honest and revolutionary manner to implement the party decisions and demands set out in the resolution. They asked Saleh Mohammad Ziray to assure Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, of their pledges.

The work of the session was evaluated by Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. In a detailed speech, Saleh Mohammad Ziray said: Comrades, we should move to set an example of the party organization in Kabul, the capital of the country and the cradle of the revolution. This movement should be great and should involve all aspects of life. We should fight seriously against all deficiencies, shortcomings and weaknesses. Of course, this does not mean that work has not been done by Kabul party organizations. Great achievements have been made in all aspects; especially in the economy, maintaining party leadership, and defending the April Revolution. However, in the present situation and according to the demands of the party and revolution, they are not sufficient. Work and struggle should be carried out to the level demanded by the party and the revolution. Demands from the people, the party, revolution and our dear comrade and leader Babrak Karmal made on your party organization are much greater then what you have achieved.

In conclusion the session unanimously approved a resolution on enhancing the role of Kabul party committees and organizations and their responsibilities to improve affairs in the city and in support of the resolution passed by the 14th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee.

Ziray, Officials Visit Qandahar, Discuss Tasks

LD202104 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Politburo, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the Central Council of the DRA National Fatherland Front; Najibollah, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, and head of the State Information Services [KHAD]; Abdol Majid Sarboland, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Sayed Mohammad Golabzoy, member of the party Central Committee and minister of internal affairs; and Brigadier Nazar Mohammad, member of the Party Central Committee and chief of general staff, went to the Kharqa-e Mubarak [shrine of the Prophet Muhammad's gown] in Qandahar city today and prayed for the sacred soul of his eminence the master of the universe.

Later on, they took part in a joint session of the southern zone headquarters. In the session, Brigadier Mohammad Hakim, head of the southern zone; Mortaza Kaywan, secretary of the provincial party committee; and Ghulam Rasul Yusofi, governor of Qandahar, presented comprehensive reports on the consolidation of state sovereignty, on the activities of the party members, and on the performance of state organs in Qandahar Province.

At the end of the session, Saleh Mohammad Ziray assessed the work of the session and pointed out the tasks and responsibilities of the participants in the session for defense of the homeland, to consolidate state sovereignty, and to serve the people in light of the resolutions of the 14th PDPA Central Committee Plenum and the guidance of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

Saleh Mohammad Ziray, Najibollah and the rest of their entourage arrived in Qandahar this morning.

Panjsheri, Writers Delegation Leave for Sofia

LD212112 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Dastagir Panjsheri, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Union of Writers, left for Bulgaria today at the head of a writers union delegation to take part in the fifth international writers' conference scheduled to be held in Sofia under the slogan: Peace: A Need for Our Planet.

Mohammad Esma'il Danesh, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of mines and industry; the responsible secretary of the Union of Writers; the Deputy head of protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the Bulgarian ambassador in Kabul saw the delegation off at Kabul International Airport.

Delegation Returns From GDR Celebrations

LD192013 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Brigadier Mohammad Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, returned to Kabul this morning after leading a high-ranking party and state delegation to the GDR for that country's 35th anniversary.

At Kabul International Airport, the delegation was welcomed by Aslam Watanjar, member of the Politburo and minister of communication, and the GDR ambassador to Kabul.

Frenchman Sentenced to 18 Years Imprisonment

LD201547 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] In open session today, the DRA Special Revolutionary Court's criminal court sentenced Jacques Abouchar, French citizen, to 18 years imprisonment in accordance with DRA laws.

BAKHTAR Defends Court Ruling

LD220641 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0537 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Kabul, October 21, BAKHTAR: A political observer of BIA writes:

The West and especially France seek to confuse the public opinion by raising hues and cries about the verdict of the Afghan court regarding Jacques Abouchar's case and thus to camouflage his malicious activities against the DRA.

Abouchar in the court had explicity confessed that he, accompanied by an Afghan counter-revolutionary band, had illegally and secretly trespassed the territory of Afghanistan. Abouchar bore the responsibility of the incident of the shooting exchanges between the frontier forces of the DRA and the bandits as a result of which three Afghan soldiers were badly wounded.

He had also acknowledged that he had links with the counter-revolutionary leaders based in Pakistan.

A letter was found with him fron counter-revolutionary bands asking another band to wage an operation against the Armed Forces of the DRA so that Abouchar could prepare a propaganda program.

If he were not aiming at carrying out impermissible activities and collecting of antagonistic information incompatible with his profession, why did he not ask for an official permission to enter Afghanistan in a legal manner? If he was not involved in subversive activities against Afghanistan, why did he ask the bandits for an operation to be organized in order to give him the opportunity to take pictures in an intention to send the films to Western media to be used for hostile propaganda purposes against the DRA.

The panel of judges of the Special Revolutionary Court of the DRA in an open trial sentenced Abouchar to 18 years of imprisonment on charges of breaking the law of an independent country and for being involved in carrying out impermissible activities. Thus, in view of the Afghan law, Abouchar is a culprit.

The verdict of the court in case of Abouchar is in full conformity with international norms and regulations. If the same case had occurred in France they, who now try to exculpate Abouchar, would have taken similar decision.

France Working for Release

NC211513 Paris AFP in English 1500 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 21 (AFP) — French television reporter Jacques Abouchar, jailed for 18 years in Afghanistan yesterday, can appeal against his sentence to the Afghan Revolutionary Council headed by President Babrak Karmal, Afghanistan Embassy sources said here today.

Mr. Abouchar, 53, a reporter for the French state television network Antenne-2, was sentenced to 18 years by an Afghan court for "illegally entering Afghanistan with an armed group."

He was captured on September 17 in an ambush by Soviet and Afghan troops while on an undercover reporting assignment near the Pakistani border.

The Embassy sources said the Revolutionary Council was the supreme body in Afghanistan and could overturn judgements by "revolutionary tribunals", such as the court which passed yesterday's sentence.

Sentences passed by the tribunals are put into effect after they have been approved by the council, the sources added.

The Embassy here did not say if Mr. Abouchar had already submitted an appeal.

Afghan rebel sources at the Pakistan border town of Peshawar meanwhile were optimistic that Mr. Abouchar would soon be released. They believed the severity of the sentence was aimd at intimidating Western journalists planning to enter Afghanistan clandestinely.

(The French charged d'affaires in Kabul, Roland Barraux, immediately told the Afghan authorities of the French Government's "deeply shocked" reaction to the sentence, the Foreign Ministry said in Paris today.

(The Ministry said it was doing everything it could to obtain the journalist's release, and that Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson had summoned the Afghan charge d'affaires in Paris, Abdullah Keshtmand.

(Also in Paris, the head of the French Communist Party, Georges Marchais, called on the Afghan authorities to release Mr. Abouchar as soon as possible.

(Meanwhile, the Afghan press agency BAKHTAR said in a report monitored in Paris today that the panel of judges gave Mr. Abouchar the chance to defend himself in a "free and democratic atmosphere".

("He explicitly confessed before the court to his illegal entrance along with bandits into the territory of Afghanistan for collecting hostile and poisonous information," the report said. It said the sentence was based on the "substance of his guilt", the "philanthropic" policy of the Afghan regime and his appeal for clemency.)

Clandestine Radio on Anti-Soviet Operations

GF211832 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan
in Dari 1715 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Our crusading brothers attacked a (?military convoy) of the Soviet occupation forces and government mercenaries last week in [words indistinct] of Panjhesar. In the ensuing clash that lasted 2 hours, some damage was inflicted on the aggressor. In the operations, 2 enemy tanks were destroyed and approximately 21 enemy personnel were annihilated by the enemy-burning fire of our crusading brothers. Similar clashes have also been reported in Qandahar Province.

On 3 October, our crusading brothers in a coordinated effort attacked the security forces of Karmal's puppet regime in the (?Hazratchi Baba) district of Qandahar city. Our crusading brothers managed to destroy one enemy tank and three vehicles. Our Muslim revolutionaries, in a similar operation carried out against a security unit inside Qandahar city, managed to destroy four positions of the communist enemy and its puppets. A total of 18 mercenaries were annihilated in these operations.

In late September, our crusading brothers managed to attack a military convoy of the Soviet occupation forces and the Karmalist mercenaries in Farah Province. The enemy suffered casualties in material and personnel, and a number of tanks and vehicles were destroyed by our crusading Muslims. Our crusaders, in complete coordination, attacked a Soviet and Karmalist mercenaries' convoy passing on [name indistinct] Delaram road and in a lightning attack inflicted an unknown number of casualties on the enemy. They also managed to capture some arms from the enemy forces in these operations. The Soviet occupation forces bombed the region in retaliation for the attacks by our crusading brothers and martyred five of our innocent compatriots, including women and children. They also caused losses to the economy.

Delhi on Newsmen's Strike Against Ban on Paper
BK191625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Excerpts] In Bangladesh, the main opposition parties have announced their determination to resist the military government's move to hold upazilla [subdistrict] elections at all costs.

Meanwhile, journalists in the country have begun a 24-hour token hunger strike from this evening demanding withdrawal of the ban on the publication of an opposition newspaper *DAINIK DAILY*. They have also demanded the withdrawal of warrants of arrests against the paper's editor and a reporter.

Official: Saudi Arabian King Fahd To Visit
BK200845 Dhaka BSS in English 0615 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 20, BSS — Adviser for Foreign Affairs Mr Humavun Rashid Chowdhury said here yesterday that King Fahd of Saudi Arabia will visit Bangladesh.

Saudi Arabia, he recalled, assisted Bangladesh in her distress in floods.

Britain's Princess Anne To Pay 6-Day Visit
BK220328 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Princess Anne of Britain arrives in Dhaka tomorrow on a 6-day visit to Bangladesh. Princess Anne, who is the president of the Save the Children fund organization, will visit a number of projects run by the organization in Dhaka, Khulna, and at Bahadurabad in Jamalpur district. The princess will also call on President Ershad. She will lay wreaths at the Jatiya Shahid Smriti Shoudha [national martyrs monuments] at Savar.

The princess will be received at the Zia International Airport by the deputy chief martial law administrator and minister for industries, Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, and the minister for social welfare and women's affairs, Dr Shafia Khatun. She will leave Dhaka on Sunday.

Briefs

Finnish Aid for Port — Finland is to provide a grant of 14 crore, 50 lakh taka to Bangladesh for implementing Chittagong Port interim container handling development project. The assistance will continue till 1986. [Excerpt] [*Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 20 Oct 84 BK*]

World Food Program Aid — The World Food Program is to give food aid worth 148 crore taka to support the feeding and rehabilitation of vulnerable groups in Bangladesh for another 3 years. An agreement to this effect has been signed in Dhaka between the World Food Program and the Government of Bangladesh. [Excerpt] [*Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 16 Oct 84 BK*]

Gandhi Urges Nation To Unite Against Threats
BK210450 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] The prime minister has again voiced concern over the development of new nuclear weapons by the superpowers. Mrs Gandhi said while millions of people in poor countries die of hunger, these countries do not even hesitate to spend a huge amount on development of nuclear weapons. She was laying the foundation stone of a 15 crore rupee dairy plant at Chakkarjaria near Lucknow yesterday. The dairy plant is part of the 111 crore rupee milk project, started by the state dairy cooperation federation. It will have a capacity of 2,000,000 litres a day.

Mrs Gandhi pointed out that there has been so much piling of nuclear arms, but even one hundredth of the stock is sufficient to destroy a large part of the world. Expressing her deep anguish over the induction of arms in India's neighborhood, the prime minister said these are directed against us.

Referring to all-round development in the country in the last 4 years, Mrs Gandhi said the seventh plan lays special emphasis on providing food to everyone, creating more job opportunities, and increasing general production in the country.

Earlier, addressing a public at Jagdishpur, Mrs Gandhi said that certain powers are envious of the progress made by the country. They are trying to put up obstacles in the way. The opposition parties, she said, are not realizing the dangers the nation is facing. Mrs Gandhi said India never believes in grabbing land of other countries. At the same time it would not allow any powers to encroach upon its territory.

The prime minister called upon the people to unitedly face the internal and external challenges facing the country. Mrs Gandhi also laid the foundation stone of the 750 crore rupee gas based nitrogenous fertilizer plant at Jagdishpur. The joint India-gulf project, when completed, will produce over 7 lakh tons of urea per year.

Defense Minister Visits Leh, Forward Areas
BK201617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] The defense minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, has said that India pursues the path of peace but it cannot be complacent, particularly, when sophisticated weapons have been inducted in her neighborhood. He called upon the Armed Forces personnel to remain alert always. Mr Chavan was on a 2-day visit to Leh [in Kashmir] and forward areas. The defense minister complimented jawans [soldiers] for maintaining the unique character of secularism and national integration and their devotion to duty.

Vajpayee Requests Statement on Pakistani Border
BK191616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, has said the government should make a comprehensive statement on the recent developments on the Indo-Pakistan border.

Addressing a news conference at Gondal in Rajkot District of Gujarat today, he said the issue of one party one symbol should not be (?brought) into the talks among opposition parties.

Rail Traffic To, From Pakistan To Resume
BK191622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Rail traffic between India and Pakistan will be resumed for a day tomorrow. According to the spokesman of the Northern Railway this is to clear the pending rush of passengers.

Bhaskara Rao Injured in Stoning Incident
BK200333 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] The former Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr Bhaskara Rao, and four of his colleagues were injured in a stone-throwing incident at Warangal yesterday. The police made a lathi [baton] charge to disperse an unruly crowd and arrested 27 persons in this connection. The inspector general of police, Mr Srinivasa Rao, said in Hyderabad that the police protection to the former chief minister has been strengthened.

Day Curfew Lifted From Parts of Azamgarh
BK191635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, day curfew has been lifted from 8 out of 11 localities in Maunat Bhanjan town in Azamgarh District. An official spokesman said in Lucknow this evening that the situation in the town is normal and no untoward incident has been reported from any part of town during the last 4 days. The night curfew will, however, continue as a precautionary measure.

Three Killed by Police During Bihar Rioting
BK210333 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] In Bihar, three persons were killed and several others injured when police opened fire on an unruly mob at (Deriansone). According to official reports, the trouble started when a large number of people demanding reopening of an industrial group turned violent and indulged in stone-throwing, disrupting train services. The police had to open fire in self defense and to protect public property. The industrial group has been closed since July this year. An inquiry has been ordered into the police firing. The state chief minister, Mr Chandrasekhar Singh, has expressed sorrow at the loss of lives and injury to the people.

Lok Dal, Others Form New Political Party

BK210941 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Lok Dal, Democratic Socialist Party, Rashtriya Congress, and some leaders of Janata and Congress-S have decided to form a new political party. This was announced by the Lok Dal president, Mr Charan Singh, at a news conference in New Delhi today.

Mr Charan Singh said that the name and other modalities about the new party would be decided soon after others, who have assured to join the party, actually do so. The new party will be led by Mr Charan Singh. He said that the new party is a step toward the unity of the opposition parties. Those present at the news conference included Mr H.N. Bahuguna, Mr Raghunath Reddy, Mr Ratubhai Adani, Mr Tulsi Dasappa, Mohammad Yunis Salim, and Mr Devil Lal.

Mr Devi Lal said that he has been authorized by the Haryana Janata Party to take any decision about joining the new party. He also read a letter from Mr Karpuri Thakur expressing his desire to join the new party after the decision of the Bihar unit of Janata Party.

Mr Bahuguna read out the policy statement of the new party. He said that the new party aims at ensuring direct contest in the forthcoming general election. He said that the new party will follow an economic policy based on Gandhian philosophy and proposes to bring about the land reform legislation to protect the interest of landless and small farmers.

Controls Tightened on Foreign Contributions

BK211617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] The president has promulgated an ordinance to plug the loopholes in the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act. Under the ordinance, all associations receiving foreign contributions for their activities will have to get themselves registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs. Any association or organization which is not registered with the ministry specifically for this purpose will have to obtain prior permission on each and every occasion to receive the contribution.

The ordinance also prohibits all political parties and their office bearers from receiving any foreign contribution. This will apply to all parties whether they are covered by the election symbols order or not. This order is absolute.

The provisions of the act regarding accepting the foreign contribution and hospitality have been extended to cover judges also. It has been officially stated that receipt and utilization of foreign contribution by certain associations in the country having cultural, economic, educational, religious and social programs has been engaging the attention of the government for some time. It has been felt that the regulation of the act in this respect is not very satisfactory and certain measures are called for to plug the loopholes.

The ordinance makes it compulsory that receipt of foreign contribution received by any organization should be only through a specific branch of the bank which is intimated to the Home Ministry. Receipt of money through any other branch of the bank will be treated as a violation of the act and will call for penalties.

The ordinance also prohibits acceptance of foreign contribution by any association for 3 years from the date of conviction for any violation in [illegible] the receipt of foreign contribution under the act.

Under the ordinance all organizations receiving foreign contributions either directly or through other organizations will be accountable.

The central government has now acquired powers for auditing accounts of any organization which fails to submit the prescribed returns or is suspected to have been violating the provisions of the act.

This power is in addition to the already existing power of inspection of accounts of such organizations.

Delhi Cites Report on Sind Incident Toll

BK191619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] An AFP report, quoting the Pakistan opposition sources, says that at least 17 people were killed and 40 injured in a gun battle between police and students in Sind Province on Wednesday. However, the government put the death toll at 5. The incident occurred when a group of students refused to let an army patrol search two buses in which they were travelling.

Meanwhile, in Hyderabad, Sind, about 200 lawyers took out a procession protesting against the incident.

Delhi Reports 'Fresh' Clashes in Karachi

BK210405 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] In Pakistan, fresh clashes are reported between the students and the police in Karachi and in several other towns yesterday. Police used teargas and batons to disperse the student demonstrators in many places. The students were protesting against incidents in Sind Province on Thursday in which at least five students were killed in police firing.

Zia Terms PRC Ties 'Symbol of Peace, Security'

BK201046 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that there are good-neighborly relations between Pakistan and China, based on the principles of equality and noninterference. Sino-Pakistani friendship has become the symbol of peace and security. He said this in the message to a supplement on China in *WORLD ISLAMIC TIMES*, published in Islamabad. He said the friendship between the two countries is in accord with the aspirations of their peoples.

Zia on Polls, Soviet Relations, Afghanistan

GF211740 Karachi DAWN in English 18 Oct 84 p 1

[Excerpts] Lahore, Oct 17 — President Gen. Mohammad Ziaul Haq said here today his government had taken a decision on the mode of elections but would announce it at an appropriate time along with polling schedule, as part of a package plan.

He said the government was keeping the issue uncertain deliberately as the national interest demanded that the decision be made public only a short while before the elections.

The president, who arrived here today on a brief visit, was talking to newsmen at Lahore Airport where he was received by Punjab Government Lt-Gen Ghulam Jilani Khan.

Asked whether there was any objective factor hindering a decision and its announcement, the president said that was not the position. The entire world was aware of "our motives and programme." The element of uncertainty, he said, had been deliberately created.

Elaborating, he said any announcement on the mode of elections at this stage was bound to create chaos and disorder which the government wanted to avoid. The common man had no need to be interested in a decision on the issue at this stage. The government was engaged in having negotiations with various political elements and was trying to seek their confidence.

When pointed out that there could be disorder and turmoil in the country even if the decision was announced in January or thereabouts, he said that by then the government would have a much stronger grip on things. "They will not have enough time to do so (create turmoil)."

However, he held out an assurance that the polls would be free and impartial.

The President ruled out the possibility of a national government in view of the tension on the frontiers, maintaining that no such proposal was under consideration of the government. All speculations in this regard were totally baseless and "we will go through it by ourselves", he added.

Posing a counter-question "what is a national government and are we aliens and foreigners?" the president said the present scenario was different from that in 1979 when "we had asked some political parties to join us." Today the government could bear the responsibility by itself. However, once the elections had been held, the elected representatives would be required to run the government.

Agencies adds: As to the closure of borders in Indian-occupied Kashmir, the president said there was already no traffic across Azad Kashmir.

About the Soviet Union, he said Pakistan had close economic relations with it with the prospects of further development in them.

The president said the Soviet Union had assisted "us in a big way" in many projects including the Pakistan steel mills and manufacturing of tractors, besides barter and other economic agreements.

He said they had no dispute with the Soviet Union but from its point of view "we have differences with her on the Afghanistan issue" which, the president added, was a complicated one.

The president said that according to the Soviet Union it had sent troops in Afghanistan on the request of a friendly government, but, he added, 117 nations in the United Nations viewed it as aggression.

Afghanistan, the president said, was a non-aligned independent Islamic country and the Soviet invasion of that country was against all norms of international relations and justice.

He said there was no solution of the Afghanistan issue except a political one and Pakistan was trying to achieve it through the special representative of the UN secretary-general.

Replying to a question about the progress in Geneva talks on Afghanistan, the president said some headway had been made. The Soviet Union agreed to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan, but when Pakistan asked about the time schedule for the withdrawal, it said it would be decided between the friendly governments of the two countries, the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

The president said the Soviet Union wanted guarantees that there would be no outside interference in Afghanistan after its withdrawal. It also did not want a hostile government in its neighbouring country. Pakistan told the Soviet Union that Afghanistan had other neighbours too, and the issue had international involvement.

The five permanent members of the Security Council and the neighbouring countries like Pakistan, China and Iran could provide guarantees required by the Soviet Union. In that regard, he added, Pakistan had given certain assurances and the Soviet Union had also put forward certain proposals.

Katmandu: Army Steps Up Activity at Border
BK191606 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Indian security forces have intensified patrol along the actual control line in Kashmir as Pakistan was putting additional troops on the other side of the border as part of a much stepped up military activities, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported.

The Pakistani Army resumed [? war games] by deploying new armors, including sophisticated artillery weapons, and digging new types of trenches along the control line in (?Kashmir) border state disputed by the two countries over the past 4 decades.

AFP: Security Forces Alerted in Sind Province
NC211950 Paris AFP in English 1938 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Oct 21 (AFP) — Anti-government protests erupted today for the fourth day running in the southeastern Province of Sind, as students demonstrated against the alleged killing of at least five of their colleagues by police Wednesday.

Security Forces throughout the province were placed on a state of alert, and police used tear gas and batons in Karachi, the main city, to disperse hundreds of students who had gathered at a local campus.

Traders in four towns closed their doors in support of the students, while in Sukkur, the third biggest city, lawyers marched in the streets.

All political demonstrations in Pakistan are banned under martial law, imposed after General Mohammad Ziaul Haq came to power in July 1977.

The cause of protests was an incident Wednesday, when at least five students were killed in a gun battle with government forces on a Karachi highway, according to reliable sources.

An official government statement said the dead were "notorious criminals" who had opened fire on police who tried to search the buses they were travelling in the north of the province.

Tension mounted yesterday when four soldiers and four persons described officially as bandits died in an exchange of fire in the northern village of Keti Jatoi.

However, local sources said the four civilians were in fact armed students who had attacked a patrol in revenge for Wednesday's killings.

Sind, the country's most populous and prosperous region, has been the seat of bloody demonstrations against Gen Ziaul Haq since autumn last year, when opposition groups launched the Movement for a Return to Democracy (MRD).

The protestors contend that Sind is being ruled by a neo-colonial military administration, whose ranks are mainly drawn from Punjab Province, to the north.

The crime rate has risen dramatically in the region since last autumn, with alleged groups of armed students joining bandits on main roads and creating a climate of insecurity.

Last week in Karachi, Gen Ziaul Haq recognized the gravity of the problem, and admitted that much of the bandit activity in Sind had a political motive.

Ghulam Mustapha Jatoi, the head of the moderate wing of the Pakistani People's Party, which is the biggest opposition group, warned here yesterday that the government was fomenting a climate similar to that which caused the secession of East Pakistan — now Bangladesh — in 1971.

UN Envoy Regrets Soviet Remark on Nuclear Issue
BK201319 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Pakistan told the UN General Assembly's main committee last night that it was dedicated to the principle of non-proliferation and had made categorical statements at the highest level for its determination not to exercise the nuclear weapon option. The Pakistani delegate, Mr Balkh Sher Mazari, said that Pakistan supports the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia and in other regions. Pakistan, he pointed out, would not have taken such an initiative had it any nuclear ambition as alleged by the Soviet delegate. Exercising his right of reply, Mr Mazari regretted the Soviet statement in this regard.

SRI LANKA

Alleged Terrorist Camp Found in Jaffna Area

BK201106 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] According to a report reaching Colombo, there was a clash among Sri Lankan terrorists in Tamil Nadu [in India].

The security forces have found a terrorist camp in the Maddakelle area in Jaffna. It is believed to have been used by Uma Maheshwaran's group. According to the sources, the camp was the place from where the terrorists operated after training in India.

Meanwhile, [words indistinct] shot dead three Tamil youths yesterday whom they suspected were informers. Police said that the youths were killed in separate incidents in the Mullaittivu and Vavuniya districts. The bodies were tied to lamp posts and notes left nearby said the victims were informants. The Ministry of National Security in the meantime said that several specially trained soldiers have been sent to Jaffna to assist the security forces in containing terrorist activities.

More Than 400 Suspected Terrorists in Custody

BK211117 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] More than 400 persons suspected of being involved in terrorist activities are now in custody. According to the Ministry of National Security, several of them are hard-core terrorists. The minister, Lalith Athulathmudali, said that these suspects were being questioned. He appealed to the people to extend their fullest cooperation to the government and to the Armed Forces to wipe out terrorism.

Explosion Kills Person Attempting To Set Bomb

BK221052 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Several bomb explosions took place in the city this morning; property damage was slight. Two innocent persons have received minor injuries. However, one person who had attempted to lay a bomb died when it exploded. This person has been identified as one Paripurman from Kayts. Special security measures are being taken to deal with this problem. Police request the people to be calm.

AFP: Details on Bombings

NC220918 Paris AFP in English 0910 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Colombo, Oct 22 (AFP) — A spate of bomb blasts rocked the Sri Lankan capital today during the morning rush hour, killing at least three people, the Defence Ministry said.

The ministry said that there had been at least seven explosions in different parts of the capital. Other reports said there had been nine blasts, but police were unable to give a precise count or a firm death toll.

The first bomb exploded as it was being carried near a police station in the north of the city. The man carrying the bomb was killed, police sources said.

Two other people were killed at Peliyagoda, also in the north of the city, when a parcel bomb they had found and taken home exploded, police sources said.

The blasts rocked the city as thousands of commuters arrived in the capital for work.

Army disposal experts exploded one bomb near the central rail station and another went off near the state-owned broadcasting and television stations, official sources said.

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the blasts, the first fatal bomb attacks in the city since an explosion in July killed an employee at the luxury hotel Lanka Oberoi.

But there was speculation that the bombs were the work of northern Tamil separatists, who investigators said were trying to scare away tourists, a major source of revenue for Sri Lanka.

Program To Prevent Illicit Fishing To Be Drawn Up

BK191055 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The Government is to draw up a comprehensive and effective program to stop illicit fishing operations in the Sri Lanka territorial waters. A coordination between the police, naval force, and the department of attorney general will be maintained for this purpose. This program is aimed at the successful maintenance of the Ordinance No 59 of 1979.

Fisheries Minister Festus Perera has already instructed relevant officials to train a special group of officials for this purpose.

Majlis Speaker on Recent Offensive, Oil Prices

LD210914 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct 21 IRNA — The Majlis speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaking in the open session of the Majlis here Sunday morning said that the recent offensive of the Islamic combatants has caused irreparable damage to the Iraqi forces.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi- Rafsanjani, who is also the special representative of Imam Khomeyni in the Supreme Defence Council, further praised the gains made by the Iranian forces in the central sector of warfronts and prayed for their further victories.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani also commented on the recent move by certain oil producing countries to lower oil prices. He referred to the move as a new plot against the oil producing countries in general. He added that it started from England and Norway which have lowered the price of the North Sea oil by some one and a half dollars.

For these countries, he added such a price cut would make no difference. Unfortunately, one of the OPEC member countries has followed suit, he pointed out. The Islamic Republic of Iran, he stressed, has always supported the right. He hoped that other OPEC members would not give in to this plot. "If necessary, they should cut back on their production in order to thwart this plot, and maintain the current oil price," he added.

Finalizing his speech, he hoped that OPEC would not be affected by the plot, adding that the Islamic Republic of Iran would be able to fight against such tendencies and would work for the protection of rights of the oppressed people of the oil-producing countries.

Friday Sermon Stresses Perseverance Against Iraq

GF191426 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Tehran Friday Arabic sermon by Majlis Speaker and temporary Tehran Friday Imam Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani 19 October — recorded]

[Excerpt] Brothers, we are all ordained to use our resources and divine bounties in exalting Islam and supporting Muslims. However, regrettably, some of our resources are being used against Islam by agents who serve international arrogance.

One of the most egregious examples of this is the Iraqi Ba'th Party and its reactionary protectors who have waged this destructive war against the Islamic Revolution in Iran. You Muslims have witnessed how these people destroyed the Muslim world and its resources and endangered its security and stability. And when they saw that the Islamic Republic of Iran was determined to extinguish the fire, punish those who started it, and eradicate corruption, [words indistinct] in order to justify these stands and false allegations.

However, we will not give up jihad. We will continue to depend on Almighty God and adhere to the teachings of Islam, continuing the march until corruption is completely eradicated from this region, and the agents of infidels and servants of colonialism are eradicated. We will continue until injury to Muslims is prevented, the path for Muslims to acquire freedom and independence is paved, and the land is cleansed of the Zionist cancer, God willing.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

No 1,885

LD191735 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Ilam, Ilam Province, Oct 19, IRNA — Heavy casualties were inflicted on Iraqi forces during their futile attempts to regain recaptured areas in the Meymak front Friday while enemy aircraft attacked a town in Ilam Province martyring several civilians.

In their fourth counterattack in the past 24 hours, over 550 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded at 11 am this morning in the Meymak battle fronts and 30 others were taken captive. This brought to 150 the number of Iraqi soldiers so far captured in Meymak since Wednesday.

An earlier attempt Friday by an enemy tank and commando battalion to rescue some of their besieged forces was a failure from its very start. A number of their front-line tanks and vehicles became stuck in mud created by Thursday's heavy showers in the region. The Islamic forces destroyed five enemy tanks, and three vehicles and seized a number of their armoured personnel carriers.

Ten [as received] Iraqi villages and townships which have been used for troop concentration have now come under fire of the Islamic forces. Their names are Mahina, 'Abd Allah Zalim, Tirman Faraj, Muhsin 'Ali, Sha'lan Najmah, Tursaq Maydan, Karim Musa and Shaykh Faza.

Also the Badrah-Mandali and Salman Faraj-Dhu Shaykh roads are now being threatened by the Iranian fire.

The Joint Staff communique confirmed that the Islamic forces had suppressed enemy actions in the region and said they were now strengthening their positions, mopping up recaptured positions and continuing to transfer Iraqi POW's behind the lines.

Meanwhile Iraqi warplanes attacked the surrounding areas of Salehabad, located 34 kms west of the provincial capital here. Fifteen civilians were martyred and a number were injured in the attack which took place at 11:40 hours (8:10 GMT) today. Rescue operations are continuing to search for more victims.

In other fronts, the Joint Staff Communique No. 1.885 said more than 20 Iraqi troops were killed and three of their personnel-carrying trucks and a number of their weaponry positions were smashed in the exchanges of fire that took place in the north-western border regions in the past 24 hours.

Fire exchanges in the southern fronts were more intense in the Hoseyniyeh region, it said, and across the Arvand River one enemy munitions depot and several of their bunkers were set ablaze.

The communique said long-range artillery fire on the southern city of Abadan left nine homes and a shop damaged on Thursday.

No 1,886

LD201642 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA — Thirteen civilians were martyred and 30 others wounded when Iraqi forces bombarded several villages near Meymak among them Qarni, Ban Rushan, Kalan, Chamabad, and Ganjehvaran within Andimeshk district of Ilam from 10:05 to 17.45 hours on Friday (06.35 through 14.15 hours GMT); many private houses were ruined in the attack.

Also on Friday, the Iraqi forces continued their shelling of Iran's Abadan city from across the border martyring two civilians, injuring another two and also damaging four houses.

A military communique published by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran here Saturday said sporadic artillery fire continued in most of the battlefronts throughout Friday in the wake of Iran's latest thrust against Iraqi positions towards the western parts of Iran.

The Joint Staff Communique Number 1,886 said at least 15 Iraqi soldiers had been killed and or wounded in battlefronts near Hajj 'Umran, Marivan, and Sar Dasht on Friday and that two of their vehicles had been knocked off. The logistic and infiltration operations of the Iraqi troops were also hindered in mountainous areas of Chuman-Mostafa, Mostafa, and Ana'a, and also many of their trenches and larger bunkers were destroyed.

At 13.00 hours on Friday (09.30 GMT) Iran's Muslim combatants repelled a fourth counter-offensive of the Iraqi forces near Meymak, heavily pounding one Iraqi battalion, and one infantry company, inflicting heavy casualties upon the Iraqi troops. In other western fronts the Iranian forces set ablaze one enemy ammunitions depot crushing parts of their positions and wrecking their vehicles.

In the southern battlefronts near Hoseyniyeh and Kushk the Iranian forces inflicted casualties upon the Iraqi forces on Friday and repelled enemy infiltration attempts by sea and land.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces on Friday pounded Iraqi positions across the Arvand Rud destroying one of their bunkers and another of their surveillance posts.

No 1,887

LD211707 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct 21, IRNA — A military communique published here Sunday said that in three aborted counter-attacks near the Iranian city of Meymak on Saturday morning the Iraqi troops lost tens of artillery pieces including army tanks, mortar launchers and military vehicles.

The communique published by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the 1,887th of its kind since the outbreak of the Iraqi imposed war, said also that the Iraqi troops had launched out the counter-attacks against Iran's Muslim fighters near Meymak at 09:15 hours (05:45 hours GMT) and again at 13:12 hours (09:42 GMT) and finally at 14:05 hours (10:35) GMT) all of which were severely repelled.

In their aborted counter-attack at 14:05 hours, on Saturday six artillery emplacements of the enemy troops, as well as three surveillance posts, and six tanks and personnel carriers of the Iraqi troops were destroyed and many of the enemy troops were killed and or wounded.

In the Saturday operations of the Iranian force against the Iraqi positions near Meymak the Iraqi troops lost nine tanks, two large engineering vehicles, two 106-mm guns, and four missile launchers. The Iranian forces seized three enemy tanks, four trucks and dumpers, one command jeep, six 106-mm guns, six 120-mm mortar launchers, twenty 20-mm and 82-mm mortar launchers, four heavy guns, one 75-mm howitzer and large haul of small fire arms and communication equipment. The Iraqi troops have also suffered large human casualties during the operations.

Sporadic artillery fire was traded between the Iranian troops and the Iraqi forces elsewhere in the north-western and southern fronts raging more heavily in Sharhani and Hoseyniyeh, with the Iranian forces prevailing over enemy troops throughout the battle fronts.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi forces continued shelling the Iranian city of Abadan from across the border on Saturday damaging five houses and two shops and injuring one civilian in the city.

Continuing Reportage on Fighting at Border Heights

Combatants Achieve 'Final Buildup'

LD200855 Tehran IRNA in English 0848 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Meymak, Oct. 20 IRNA — In the continuation of last Thursday's operation launched in Meymak area, western Iran, to complete the purging of Meymak heights, Islamic combatants Friday night in a limited supplementary operation stationed on heights overlooking Talkhab River and victoriously achieved their final military build up.

During the operation, over 30 Iraqi forces were captivated [as received] by the Islamic forces of Iran while a great number of other were killed and injured.

According to the report, the Islamic combatants are at present strengthening their new positions.

5th Counterattack 'Severely Smashed'
LD201009 Tehran IRNA in English 1004 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Ilam, Oct. 20, IRNA — The Iraqi forces, sustaining more casualties and damages, were forced to retreat when their fifth counter-attack was severely smashed by the Muslim combatants of Iran in the Meymak area Saturday morning.

Latest reports reaching here added that the counter-offensive, which was aimed at recapturing the liberated strategic heights in the Gorgani area, was launched by the defeated enemy troops at 06:00 hours local time (02:30 GMT) this morning.

Saddam Husayn Commanded Counterattack
LD201029 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Ilam, Oct 20, IRNA — Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn has commanded the already repelled counterattack carried out by his men attempting in vain to recapture the liberated heights in the Gorgani area of the western front of Meymak Saturday morning.

The latest report said that the Baghdad ruler, who had come to the area of the 2nd Iraqi Corps to investigate reasons for his forces' defeat in the Meymak front, commanded the counter-offensive, but the staunch resistance of the Iranian defenders immediately smashed the enemy's attempt.

In this futile attempt, the Iraqi troops were soon driven off after suffering heavy losses and casualties.

Meymak Operation Achieves Targets
LD201535 Tehran IRNA in English 1529 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Meymak, Oct. 20, IRNA — The battles in the Meymak operational region have so far left more than 2,000 enemy casualties and 180 captured, of which 170 have been moved behind the front lines.

The Islamic forces achieved all their military targets in the Meymak operation region Saturday with the capture of the heights overlooking the Talkh Ab River.

In its morning broadcast, Baghdad radio admitted the Islamic forces had gained "two footholds" in the positions of the Fourth Iraqi Infantry Brigade in the region.

Heights No. 384 were captured in a limited operation Friday night during which 30 Iraqi soldiers were captured and scores were killed or wounded.

IRNA reporter in the front said two Iraqi counter-offensives to regain the heights were crushed leaving large number of Iraqi casualties. [as received]

A total of 35 enemy tanks and tens of vehicles have been destroyed in the region and three Iraqi aircraft were shot down in heavy fighting Friday.

The Islamic forces also seized more than 1,000 enemy rifles, 20 light and heavy vehicles and seven tanks undamaged.

Guards, Army Report Successes
LD201726 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA -- The Iraqi forces have so far suffered 2,500 casualties in the Meymak operational region and 180 of their soldiers have been taken captive, a military communique released Saturday evening said.

In their joint communique, the Islamic Revolution's Guards and the army said the enemy forces attempted to regain the heights No. 384, captured by the Islamic forces Friday night, but their counterattack was a failure as in previous ones in the area.

It said the Islamic forces also seized more than seven undamaged tanks and personnel carriers, 20 light and heavy vehicles, five 106-mm artillery pieces, seven anti-aircraft guns, 20 mortar launchers, more than 1,000 rifles and large quantities of ammunition.

20-21 Oct Battles Detailed
LD211701 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA — Two heavy counterattacks by the Iraqi forces aimed at reoccupying Iranian territory in the Meymak border area have been completely squashed by the Islamic forces during the past 36 hours.

A joint communique issued here by the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards moments ago said 1,100 enemy forces were killed or wounded in their futile attempts Sunday morning and Saturday afternoon.

"The defeated enemy carried out a desperate counterattack this morning (Sunday) but with the timely vigilance and bravery of the God-seekers of the Islamic Army they escaped the battle scene leaving heavy losses and great many casualties," it said.

IRNA correspondents in the Meymak operational region said one Iraqi helicopter and 20 tanks and personnel carriers were also destroyed in the latest enemy attack. Eight hundred enemy troops were also killed or wounded.

Enemy aircraft bombed the positions of the Islamic forces but the latters' anti-aircraft fire prevented heavy enemy activity. In one instance Iraqi aircraft dropped cluster bombs, martyring one combatant and wounding four others.

In a four-hour battle Saturday afternoon, Muslim combatants checked an enemy attack in the Meymak heights and inflicted heavy casualties and losses. The bodies of hundreds of Iraqi soldiers still remain on the scene. Iranian communications experts in the operational region intercepted Iraqi radio conversations Sunday during which top Iraqi military commanders issued direct orders on behalf of Saddam Husayn.

The commanders of the Second Commando Brigade and the Fourth Infantry Brigade of the Second Iraqi Army were ordered to regain lost territories and be promoted or face execution. Lower-ranking officers would receive a Colt revolver as a "gift" if they pulled through with a victory.

Meanwhile the casualty toll of Friday and Saturday's Iraqi air raid against the district of Salehabad, 35 kms west of Ilam, rose to 18 martyrs, eight of them children. Thirty-five others were injured.

Iraqi warplanes attacked the surrounding areas of the town again Sunday but there were no casulaties or losses.

The strategic location of the Meymak border region, with its oil resources and farm lands, has been a cause for concern for the Iranian civilian population in the area for a long time.

Towns and villages in this mountainous area were constantly threatened by Iraqi shelling and Thursday's operation by the Islamic forces was necessary in order to eliminate this situation.

The important heights in the area from west towards east are Khanchil, Golalan, Talkhab, Gorgani, Fazil and Meymak. All heights rarely exceed 300 metres.

Major Haydar Abdallah, an officer of the Iraqi Special Guard Force, could be seen among those killed on Sunday's fighting.

The losses inflicted on the Iraqi forces were 60 percent destruction of the 12th Armoured Brigade of the Third Iraqi Division, 40 percent of the 403rd Independent Brigade and 80 percent of a commando battalion. A special guards' battalion was 70 percent destroyed.

The number of enemy equipment set ablaze increased to 30 tanks and 20 vehicles.

Tehran Radio Hails Victories

GF210656 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Commentary from the Central News Unit research group: "The Crushing Response of the Soldiers of Islam to the Aggression by the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi Armed Forces"]

[Excerpts] According to reports received, Army soldiers liberated tens of kilometers of the Islamic country's soil from occupation by the Ba'thist enemy and beat back attacks by the Saddamist forces in the operational areas in the west and south. According to the Central News Unit, the selfless soldiers of the army of truth, continuing their relentless battle against the infidel Saddamists, liberated the important heights of the Meymak operational sector which had been occupied by the Ba'thist army of Iraq. Following the consolidation and strengthening of the acquired areas in the midnight operations on Thursday, they also violently crushed four counterattacks of the Ba'thist-Zionist forces.

One of the methods which could result in the political defeat of Saddam Husayn is the large-scale weakening of his supporters in the region. This political solution can be found in the Islamic Republic of Iran's initiative for the expulsion of Israel from the United Nations. This political solution would simply reveal the unreliability of those who shout leftist slogans on the international level while they have rightist leanings. Sometimes they profess to be enemies of imperialism. At other times they work side by side with Zionism. Saddam Husayn, with the Ba'thist Party of Iraq, which claims to be an enemy of Israel, has not even fired a single shell in the Arab-Israel wars. Some years ago when the steadfastness front was established against Israel, he denounced the front for its lack of consistent struggle and said we must go to war with Israel. Now he has gone a step further. In the recent UN session, he abstained from voting for the Iranian plan to oust Israel from the United Nations.

The plan for Israel's expulsion from the United Nations — even though it remains in abeyance in the United Nations — is in fact proof of the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the wider political front. This is because all the countries of the world clearly witnessed the covert connivance of Iraq with Israel. In reality, the latest Israel attack in the south and west was [intended] to eclipse this political victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran. But the attack culminated in the conquest of the strategic Meymak heights by the Muslim combatants and a crushing defeat to the Ba'th Party and Saddam Husayn; it brought nothing but the greater impoverishment of Saddam Husayn and the exacerbation of differences in the Iraqi Army.

Simultaneous with Saddam Husayn's defeat in Meymak and in order to compensate for their defeat, the forces of oppression embarked on a bombing of the operational and residential areas in Ilam Province. The result was that 11 civilians were martyred and some wounded. But finally, three aggressive Iraqi fighter planes were downed by the effective fire of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force fighters. In any case, today Saddam Husayn and his supporters in the region should learn a lesson from their military defeat in Meymak — that Iran is desirous of peace in the area but will not let any aggression in the area go unanswered.

Commentary: Iraq Exaggerates Battlefield Claims

GF210818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Unattributed commentary from "What Goes on at the Fronts" program]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. With salutations to the leader of the revolution and praise to the combatant and truth-loving nation of Iran, we begin our program:

The fact that emerges at the fronts is that the aggressive Ba'thist forces — that is, the same ones who at one time had begun their aggression with the intention of gaining a victory in 3 days and the secession of Iranian Khuzestan and had occupied 90 kms ofIranian soil — is now completely paralyzed and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Revolution are now more in control of the situation on the fronts.

This condition not only manifests the domination of the defenders of Islam and the Islamic Republic over the Ba'thist-Zionist aggressors, but is a great defeat for those who attacked Islamic Iran on the pretense of being the victor of the Qadisiyeh. The Islamic Republic combatants have the initiative to act on the battle scene, while the inept, defeated enemy can do nothing but wait full of apprehension and fear for an attack by Islamic combatants. This control by the Islamic combatants over the situation gives them the opportunity to decide their course of action and to utilize the situation for their own advantage. The predominance of the Islamic forces on the battlefronts allows them to attack whenever they wish or to keep the defeated aggressors in suspense and fear of their attack for a considerable period of time. This is a tangible fact — a fact which is very frustrating for the Ba'thist-Zionists.

The results of the latest battles revealed that the Islamic combatants not only foiled the act of the enemy, but also liberated new areas and even captured more than 100 of the Ba'thist aggressors on the first day and destroyed some of the enemy emplacements and troops. POW's captured from the aggressors are the source for acquiring information on the internal situation in Iraq, especially the condition of the Ba'thist Armed Forces. This time as well, the captured prisoners spoke not only of the decrepit and disorganized condition of the Ba'thist Armed Forces but also revealed one of the objectives of the recent harassment operations. According to the confessions of these POW's, the commanders of the aggressive Ba'thist forces planned these operations to boost the morale of their depressed forces.

If the defeated Ba'thist regime does not deny the results of the battle in the past few days, it certainly cannot mask the fact that despite the increase in arms purchased from the East and West, the military ability of the aggressive Ba'thist Armed Forces has declined more than ever. In the past, as well, every operation by the Islamic combatants which resulted in the defeat and retreat of the Ba'thist aggressors was also proof and refutation of the exaggerated claims of the Ba'thist regime, especially on the events on the battlefields. A similar situation can be observed at present.

The Ba'thist-Zionist aggressors, after months of preparation and reinforcement of their troops, achieved nothing but retreat. They lost the kilometers they had previously occupied. Exactly 2 days before this abortive operation, Saddam Husayn in his speech admitted the defeat of the Ba'thist army's backbone in the Ramadan operations. Now we can boast that defeat is a perpetual and continuous phenomenon for the aggressors even though they may not admit it for a long time!

Enemy Casualties Pass 3,600

LD220853 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Reports received from the joint operational Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in the western part of the country note that the courageous Islamic combatants set fire to a large amount of equipment and armored weapons of the blasphemous Saddamists while repulsing the futile counteroffensives launched by the Iraqi aggressors in an effort to recapture important strategic heights in Meymak. More than 1,400 Iraqi Zionist forces were either killed or wounded. To date the number of casualties sustained by the aggressive enemy has passed 3,600.

According to the same report, yesterday the Islamic combatants foiled one of the counteroffensives by the forces of the Zionist regime of Iraq and set fire to more than 30 tanks and 20 vehicles belonging to the blasphemous Saddamists. In this operation one helicopter belonging to the Zionist enemy was downed by the forces of Islam.

Iraqi POW's Provide Information on Fighting

Offensive 'To Drum Up Morale'

LD191851 Tehran IRNA in English 1837 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Karbala Headquarters Oct. 19, IRNA — An Iraqi lieutenant said the Iraqi high command ordered the Wednesday offensive to drum up morale in the Ba'th army.

The lieutenant was captured Thursday in the Kushk area, north of the Khorramshahr port, along with 29 other Iraqi sldiers.

He said the order for the attack came Wednesday morning but a number of junior officers protested because they lacked mobilization.

"But regional commanders insited on the attack because it was designed to drum up courage in the Ba'th army" he added.

The lieutenant said the attack started with a battalion, a company of commandos and artillery backing at 09:30 am (06:00 hours GMT) Wednesday.

"After an hour we found ourselves surrounded by the Islamic forces. We suffered 100 dead there and the rest surrounded," he said.

According to the lieutenant, the Ba'th Army lives with constant fear of an offensive.

The officer said he was from the Fifth Mechanized Division and a Baghdad resident.

Serious Manpower Shortage Reported

LD192236 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Ilam, Oct, 19, IRNA — The latest group of the Iraqi prisoners of war have said that instances of draft-dodging have been steadily increasing in Iraq and that in an about-face from earlier practices and also in a bid to ensure the return to the Armed Forces by deserters Saddam Husayn has declared that deserters who should decide to return to the Armed Forces and report themselves will be pardoned and permitted to continue their military service without discrimination. Many of them have also said that they were fighting in the Armed Forces under coercion and that the ruling propaganda atmosphere in Iraq made it difficult for them to question the wisdom of a war against

the Islamic Republic of Iran.

They have also said that to cope with depleting manpower among draft age youth in iraq, Saddam Husayn has recently also involved Iraqi girls in certain logistic and behind the front services.

The Iraqi POW's have also said that there are countless conscripted youth in the Iraqi Armed Forces whose legal military service period has long since come to an end but who have been retained with the Armed Forces despite their own will.

One Iraqi POW, who is a sergeant with the 22nd Infantry Division of the Iraqi forces said the Iraqi troops had heard words about an impending thrust by Iran's Muslim combatants but that despite their off-hand knowledge they did not think the Iranian thrust would be that early. [sentence as received]

Cabinet Meeting Discusses Turkish Border Issues

Musavi Rules Out Pact

LD211456 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, 21 Oct, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi stated here Sunday that rumors spread by Turkish press on an alleged proposal by the Turkish Government for Iran-Turkey joint border security were not in the interest of relations between the two countries. He said "Our internal security affairs are our own business and the government has so far dealt with them and will continue to do so. Turkey's security issues too are its own affairs and have nothing to do with us."

The prime minister said this after a Cabinet meeting here in which latest battle action as well as political developments inside the country and in the region were discussed.

On Turkish forces entry into Iraq, the prime minister said we are waiting for more information in this respect but principally we believe that the weakness of the Baghdad regime should not cause Iraq's territorial integrity be threatened".

Majlis Deputy Warns Turkey

LD211458 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA — The deputy from Masjid Soleyman, Khuzestan Province, Mohammad Shini Mustapha, commented on entry of Turkish forces into northern Iraq, stressing that the people of Iraq would not forget this humiliating move of the Iraqi ruler.

The Masjid Soleyman deputy further warned the Turkish Government to be responsive to sensitivity of the Iraqi Muslims towards this issue. He referred to the move as a measure to crush the Muslim Kurds and pointed out that a similar action was carried out last year under the pretext of establishing security at the border; however, it only went to strengthen the Iraqi regime, he added.

In continuation of his speech he referred to the action of the Turkish Government as an unwise political move and added that the Islamic Republic of Iran did not expect Turkey to provide such unnecessary aid to the Iraqi regime.

Three bills were submitted to the Majlis for discussion and approval. One on cultural cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sierra Leone and the other on cultural, technical and scientific cooperation between Iran and the People's Republic of China. The third bill concerned desire of the Islamic Republic of Iran to become a member of the international convention on prevention and punishment of crimes of apartheid.

The session ended at noon and the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday morning.

Turkish Interior Minister Arrives for Border Talks

LD211134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Mr Ali Tanriyar [Turkish interior minister] has arrived in Tehran at the head of a political-military delegation in order to submit a written message from Turkish President Kenan Evren to President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and in order to hold talks on border issues. He was welcomed at the airport by Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri and a group of Iranian military, political, and security officials.

Talks Begin in Tehran

TA211751 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Interior Minister Ali Tanriyar, who is in Tehran on an official visit, has begun his contacts there. The official talks between delegations from the two countries are being held now. The Turkish delegation at the talks is being headed by Tanriyar and the Iranian delegation by Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri. The Turkish delegation also includes General Necdet Oztorun, the deputy chief of the general staff, and Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ercument Yavuzalp. Problems concering the two countries and measures to prevent terrorist activities are being discussed at the talks.

Interior Minister Meets Counterpart

LD212049 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA — Turkish and Iranian ministers of interior discussed issues of mutual interest including the entry of Turkey's military forces into the Kurdistan Province of Iraq when they met Sunday.

In their first round of talks, Turkey's Minister of Interior Ali Tanriyar and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, were accompanied by senior government and military officials.

Tanriyar said there has been "provocations" in the region by "aliens" who want to "harm ties" between Iran and Turkey.

He said "enemies of the two countries want to strain the existing

ties but I am sure Turkey will not take notice of such provocations nor will Iran consider such issues as important."

Welcoming the Turkish official, Nateq-Nuri spoke about historic ties between the two countries and expressed the hope that political and cultural ties will expand.

Khamene'i Receives Minister

LD221208 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA — The visiting Turkish interior minister, Ali Tanriyar, in a meeting with President 'Ali Khamene'i here this morning presented him a letter from the Turkish President Kenan Evren.

The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran told the Turkish official that the Muslim people of Iraq would consider any aid to the Iraqi regime as a measure against their interests. Therefore, the natural rights of the Iraqi nation must be taken into consideration, he added.

The Turkish interior minister who arrived here Sunday heading a delegation, pointed out that his country placed a great importance and respect on its relations with the neighbouring Iran and added that so far the Turkish Government has proved its sincerity in this respect.

He further discussed the latest developments in the region and stressed the need for further expansion of mutual friendly relations.

President Khamene'i thanked his Turkish counterpart [as received] and raised the issue of the Iraqi-imposed war. He also stressed the need for greater cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting was also attended by the Iranian interior minister, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, and a number of Turkish officials.

Iraqi Opposition Criticizes Turkish Government

LD192305 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA — The spokesman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) criticized the Turkish Government for dispatching troops to Iraq in order to fight the Kurds.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqr Hakim said the move by the Turkish Government follows a visit to Baghdad by the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Vahit Halefoglu and by the assistant to the head of the joint staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, which shows the move was being carried out in the wake of close coordination with the Baghdad regime.

The SAIRI official said the Turkish Government was needlessly involving itself in the struggle of the Iraqi Kurds against the Iraqi regime.

He said Saddam Husayn's regime had long since been politically isolated and therefore he was now extending an asking hand to the Turkish Army.

The Iraqi official also addressed himself to the Iraqi people reminding them of the grave situation in their country and calling on them to step up their struggle for bringing Saddam Husayn's rule to an end.

POW's Arrive in Tehran From Iraq

LD201653 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA — A group of Iranian POW's, including 74 maimed civilians, arrived at Tehran airport after their release by the Iraqi regime Saturday.

Their plane landed at Tehran airport at 18:30 (15:00 GMT) via Ankara.

The Islamic Republic was unable to release 74 maimed Iraqi POW's due to irresponsible delays by the International Red Cross office in Tehran.

Romanian Deputy Premier Continues Visit

Delivers Message to Khamene'i

LD192017 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA — First Deputy Prime Minister of Romania, Gheorghe Oprea presented a message from his country's president, Nicolae Ceausescu, to the Iranian president Khamene'i.

In his message the Romanian president declared his willingness to further Romania's relations with the Islamic Republic in various areas and invited president Khamene'i to pay an official visit to Romania.

In talks with the visiting Romanian official, President Khamene'i said there are common grounds between the Iranian and Romanian Governments especially in relation with world affairs and world imperialism.

Minister of State in Charge of the Plan and Budget Organisation Dr. Banki and Iranian and Romanian ambassadors were also present in the meeting.

Meets Commerce Minister

LD192034 Tehran IRNA in English 1711 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct 19, IRNA — Romanian First Deputy Prime Minister Gheorghe Oprea met and held talks with the Iranian Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari here today. He said during his talks with the Iranian minister that there are good prospects for collaboration in trade, economic and industrial areas between Iran and Romania. He also extended an invitation

to the Iranian Government for a visit to Romania by an Iranian delegation for a closer review of potential areas of collaboration between the two countries.

The Iranian official accepted the invitation by the visiting Romanian official and expressed hope that the visit to Tehran by Mr Oprea and his accompanying delegation had helped further the aspirations of the two countries and fulfill their interests.

Prime Minister Meets Khorasan Newspaper Staff

LD171713 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct 17, IRNA — In a meeting with the administrative personnel of the Khorasan newspaper, published in Mashhad, Prime Minister Musavi said the fact that political issues are growing faster than the social culture is a dangerous illness that must be checked across the country.

Musavi also analysed the complex role of the superpowers in the region.

He said we must be aware of the danger of Soviet presence in Afghanistan but must also know that the United States is using this excuse for its presence in the Persian Gulf.

Paper Reports on Afghan Mujahidin Operations

GF181540 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Oct 84 p 3

[Text] During battles between the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries and the forces of the Karmal regime and the Soviet occupying force, at least 80 Soviet and Afghan soldiers have been killed.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, on 24 September the Afghan Muslims fired at least 40 rockets at a military post in Bala Hesar region close to the Kabul, killing 60 government soldiers.

According to the same report at least 20 soldiers of the occupying Soviet force were killed and 60 captured by the revolutionaries in battles which took place in the southern provinces between the revolutionaries and the joint Marxist forces of Afghanistan. In this battle, which took place recently, Muslim revolutionaries attacked a Soviet post in the Dasht-e Borj region, killing one Soviet adviser.

Following violent Afghan revolutionary operations against the Soviet occupiers and government forces, widespread security measures have been taken throughout Kabul. According to a report by the *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* correspondent, quoting Afghan revolutionaries in New Delhi, major sections of Kabul including Kuteh Sangi and Sevak regions are the scene of stiff battles between the Muslim revolutionaries and the occupying forces. The members of the Afghanistan Communist Party have become very despondent seeing that even Kabul is not safe from the attacks of the Muslim revolutionaries. They have lost their morale. These people who work in the party organizations and in the puppet government, have become very sad and worried.

Kabul residents have rejected members of the Communist Party and the members of the Afghanistan intelligence service; these persons are now being criticized by the Afghan people. According to the same sources, due to the attacks of Afghan revolutionaries, Kabul now is without electricity, water, and gas.

According to Afghan sources, the Afghan Government has imposed heavy restrictions on exit visas of sick Afghans who want to leave for India for medical treatment. This is done to prevent news of the miserable situation in Kabul from reaching abroad. The report adds that now the people on the sick list are sent to socialist countries for medical treatment under a quota system.

According to the Central News Unit in Islamabad, Pakistan's *JANG* newspaper carried a report that Soviet military experts were busy deploying missiles in the airports at Jalalabad and Herat. *JANG* said that these missiles are equipped with nuclear warheads.

IRNA Cites Source on Soviet Losses in Afghanistan

LD201801 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Mashhad, Oct. 20, IRNA — Soviet and Afghan Government forces clashed with mujahidin guerrillas for 48 hours in Qandahar Province last week, a reliable source said here Saturday.

The source said the Soviets suffered heavy losses while 13 local civilians were martyred in revenge aerial bombardment.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin infiltrated the Choni military camp in Qandahar and left with a collection of light weapons.

IRNA: Afghan Muslims Say Soviet Officers Killed

LD191825 Tehran IRNA in English 1739 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 19, IRNA — Two Soviet officers were killed in a Kabul street a fortnight ago as they were on a routine patrolling of part of the city, according to Afghan Muslim militants in New Delhi.

The Soviet forces reportedly rained bullets at a city minibus killing and wounding an unidentified number of its passengers in revenge for the killing.

In related news in a protest gesture against the Soviet occupying forces, bereaved relatives of a number of people killed by the Soviet forces in a mass killing at Shiuki village of Afghanistan in September, brought the bodies of their killed relatives in front

of Karmal's office and exposed them to the public in a protest gesture against the ruling government in Kabul this week.

Elsewhere in Baba-'Abdol of Shindand south of Herat on Wednesday armed Muslim revolutionaries and members of the Mujahidin raided a column of government forces in Herat Province killing 18 government soldiers and two officers.

In the encounter between the government forces and Muslim revolutionaries which lasted about four hours the Muslim mujahidin also knocked off five personnel carriers, and seized 40 light fire arms, two automatic guns, one anti-aircraft gun, two mortar launchers and also a big haul of food and provisions. Twenty-two government soldiers surrendered to the Muslim militants and turned in their weapons to them. Also one member of the mujahidin was martyred during the operations.